

Appl. No. 10/749639
Reply to Final action of 3/8/05

IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A body frame of a vehicle, comprising:
 - a frame member, having opposite faces which face each other, provided in one of a front portion and a rear portion of the vehicle; and
 - a load imposing device, provided at an end of the frame member, for imposing a load on the opposite faces of the frame member toward at least two opposite directions which are substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the frame member, when impact on the frame member in along the longitudinal direction of the frame member is anticipated or imposed.
2. (Previously presented) The body frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the load imposing device has a member made of a shape memory alloy.
3. (Previously presented) The body frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the load imposing device has a spring.
4. (Previously presented) The body frame as claimed in claim 3, wherein the spring is one of a coil spring and a plate spring.
5. (Previously presented) The body frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the load imposing device has a band-shaped member made of a shape memory alloy, which is wound along an outer-peripheral wall of the frame member.
6. (Currently Amended) The body frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frame member is a side frame member.

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7. (Previously presented) The body frame as claimed in claim 3, wherein the spring is provided between the opposite faces of the frame member.